

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DRA Memo, 4 Apr 59

Auth: DBA REG. 77/1793

Date: 4 Feb 59

8 October 1959

STATINTL

Paragraph I., 2., B. says "The present LAS ^{TO} is adequate to meet all emergencies short of war, provided that all slots are filled and three clerk-typists added." I strongly doubt this and believe its accuracy will be put to the test within the next year or so by a marked upsurge in directed language training. Although this statement isn't elaborated and justified, it could only be true if LAS intends to divert most of its wartime language training to outside facilities.

There are two rather glaring omissions in this paper which I believe would greatly strengthen it. First there should be a listing--or at least plans for such a listing--of qualified linguists and native speakers known to LAS who could be added during an emergency period. Ideally they should be people who are already security cleared or whose clearance could be obtained quickly. It is my own conviction that a wartime situation would greatly increase the need for linguists and native speakers in LAS far beyond its present ^{TO}. Unless we have a pretty good line on prospective additions, considerable motion would be lost after the advent of an emergency. It seems to me the availability of such a list of candidates is a classic example of proper emergency planning. Secondly, there should be some listing of external training facilities which could absorb any overload during an emergency. Maybe LAS thinks such a listing is unnecessary because it is too obvious, but I still think a useful purpose would be served by having it. The mere recitation of such a list would force some thinking as to whether Berlitz, Sanz, etc. would be able to operate in a general war situation--i. e., whether they would be able to retain their personnel. Also it would force some inquiry of FSI and the military as to whether they could take significant numbers of outsiders during an emergency situation or whether their facilities would be overloaded by their own people.

Last should be part of LAS plan but not attached to OTR plan

STATINTL
STATINTL

Annex A highlights the inadequacy of our present inventory of language skills. It shows the relatively high proportion of persons who claim language proficiency but have not yet been tested. It also fails to differentiate these people by component. Finally, it shows that of the fairly high numbers of people who claim language skills, only a very few possess those skills to a useful degree. For example, of the [REDACTED] persons tested in French, [REDACTED] had a proficiency of intermediate or higher. This should force us into some pretty fast action to determine just what our language inventory really is in terms of usable proficiencies.